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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

25X1A9a [REDACTED] Chief of Intelligence Staff,
Office of Current Intelligence

25X1A9a 1. [REDACTED] commented upon recent improvement in the support which OCI is receiving from ORR. The day-to-day requests made upon ORR through the Special Reports Staff apparently are being met satisfactorily. OCI "would be happier" if the ORR analysts in their economic studies could be concerned with closely related policy and political aspects of such developments. OCI would appreciate informal memoranda on any such developments as come to the attention of ORR analysts from time to time.

25X1A9a 2. [REDACTED] observed that OCI usually made little use of the more detailed industry and commodity studies of ORR. He was enthusiastic, however, about the possibility of obtaining brief summaries of such reports; thought that they would serve a very useful purpose, would be highly desirable, informative background for current intelligence production.

25X1A9a 3. [REDACTED] also thought that quarterly reports on the economic situation and major developments in the Soviet Bloc would be useful as background for their work and would fill a gap between their (OCI) daily, weekly and other current reports. It obviously would be necessary, however, to have a definite understanding with OCI in the event that it should appear desirable to undertake the preparation of such quarterly reports in ORR.

25X1A9a 4. [REDACTED] outlined some of the OCI activities in which economic intelligence support from ORR would be helpful:

(a) OCI has a special interest in Soviet personalities - including those of middle grade such as deputies in the several ministries - and any particular policies which they have espoused or with which they may be identified.

(b) OCI is engaged in the reconstruction of major policy decisions. They attempt to describe what happened and to identify the factors which caused a particular decision or shift in Soviet policy. For example, they have attempted to analyze such developments as the following:

(i) Moscow Economic Conference. Why was it scheduled twice and rescinded; then why was it eventually a failure?

(ii) Stalin's comments on new economic textbook. What were the reasons for this new conception of economics?

(iii) Beria downfall. What economic aspects were involved, e.g., Beria's attitude on Agrogord?

Economic intelligence which would contribute to the reconstructions such as they would be "invaluable" to OCI.

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(c) [REDACTED] expressed a special interest at the present time in Soviet policies with regard to trade with the non-Orbit countries - such as recent interest in imports of consumer goods.